

Supreme Court Forum

No synagogue can ignore the world outside its sanctuary and CSZ follows this tradition with a vengeance. One issue currently of great concern to our Social Action Committee and to our membership in general is the upcoming Supreme Court Election. Feelings run high, and as always our membership represents a wealth of different viewpoints.

All members of all points of view are invited to a community forum on the Supreme Court elections, in which we can share our information and thoughts with each other. This forum will be held by the Social Action Committee on Sunday, September 21 at 7:00 pm at the synagogue.

To stimulate discussion, the *Forward* presents the following opinion piece, representing the viewpoint of two members of the Congregation:

* * *

This November, California voters will participate in an election to determine whether the current members of the California Supreme Court will continue to serve. The unique uncontested election

system was designed to eliminate political influence and partisan considerations in the confirmation election for justices of the State's highest court.

Although the process is supposed to be non-partisan, and the justices themselves are limited by the State Canons of Judicial Ethics in their political activity, opponents of the court are making the election a partisan event. In this campaign, the Court, and especially Chief Justice Bird, has been criticized for certain decisions, even though the criticism may have been more appropriately directed at the legislative or executive branches. The justices are defenseless against this criticism, since they cannot express personal views on important political issues, discuss pending cases, or explain past cases beyond their official written opinions under the ethical rules. The Court is bound to make decisions according to *constitutional principles and other laws*—not to bow to public opinion or popularity.

In accordance with these principles, the current Supreme Court has consistently upheld the rights of gay and lesbian citizens. The independent judiciary

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High Holidays 5747

Sha'ar Zahav once again looks forward to our "high" season—the High Holidays. From the beginning of the month of Elul, on September 5, we will be anticipating this solemn time. Throughout September, there will be reminders of the upcoming holy days at each week's services. On Saturday night, September 27, we will hold a Holiday Workshop and Slichot services (see separate article).

The High Holy Days proper commence with our tenth consecutive Rosh Hashanah services, on October 3 and 4 at the Unitarian Center on Geary & Franklin streets. (See High Holiday Schedule for details.) Sha'ar Zahav's own *Machzorim* (High Holiday prayerbooks) will be used throughout the holidays. Services will be led by Rabbi Yoel Kahn and members of the Ritual Committee. While contributions are traditional and needed, we will again be able to honor our custom of requiring no tickets.

The Unitarian Center is wheelchair accessible. Please call the Synagogue office to make reservations for childcare or to request signing for the hearing impaired.

Rosh Hashanah services will be followed by Tashlich services at Fort Point under the Golden Gate Bridge. After the service of casting our sins on the waters, we will have a "seudat mitzvah"—a do-it-yourself festive meal/picnic. Second day Rosh Hashanah services will be held at our synagogue.

The Days of Awe continue for us on the Shabbat services between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—Shabbat Shuvah—the Shabbat of Repentance. We will have our usual Friday night services on October 10 as well as Shabbat morning services on October 11.

The season culminates with Yom Kippur services on October 12 and 13 at the Unitarian Center.

We look forward to celebrating this exalted season with you—a time of inspiration and renewal.

PHOTO BY LAURIE DAVIS



Story time: The Family chavurah organized our first Children's Service on July 25. During part of the service, children were invited upstairs for story-telling and songs.

Back to the Future

Wasn't it just yesterday we were wearing flowers in our hair, beads and fringes adorned our vests and that awful patchouli oil dabbed upon our bodies? We lengthened jeans with rolls of embroidered strips and flopped around in leather thongs as if the sidewalks were constructed of soft sand. It was "the dawning of the Age of Aquarius" when "love" would "rule the world." If somebody needed a place to "crash" they stayed with you; whatever was in your refrigerator, licit or otherwise, became common property—no possessions were sacred. We tried to create a communal universe several steps left of center—one where material acquisition was unimportant and panhandling became almost respectable.

After a seemingly short and abrupt journey we've arrived at a time when "respect" has become the measure of how we treat each other. We respect one another's "privacy," "space," "property," "opinions" and "needs." I've been pondering, recently, this whole question of "love" versus "respect" and how it has changed our society. During a discussion on Death and Dying, at the Advance in July, one member told of an experience he had four years ago. He flew back to San Francisco following a 2-day visit to Florida because of his father's death. He promptly returned to work the next day—just like that. There was no mourning, no *shiva* and presumably his friends "respected" his "needs." During our group discussion we agreed that few of us capable of knowing what we want or need when we are hurting and that those close to us should just leap in, take over and "do" for us—bring food, cry with us, clean our houses, go get the

groceries—deal with the daily stuff of life—sit *shiva* with us. Our ancestors, in creating this tradition of *shiva*, knew exactly what modern psychology knows about our needs. We need to be helped, supported and loved and a return to the tradition of *shiva*, of communal grief and mourning and caring being the best possible experience for us when a loved one has died. Many of us are frightened and lonely today, illness and death are omnipresent. For me, an attitude of respect is exactly what we don't need. As the New Year approaches, my own *t'shuvah* (return) will be to the traditions that worked for my parents and grandparents—to a heightened sense of community—towards a modern-day *shtetl*. I believe that we can grow as a caring community if we are open to looking at what is valuable from our traditions and teaching those close to us about them. Let us incorporate some of what we tried to create in the '60s with what worked hundreds of years ago, even before the days of patchouli oil.

—Irene Ogus,
President

Closet Librarians?

Spend some time with the great literature of Judaism. Sha'ar Zahav needs volunteers to help set up and run our library. No experience necessary—just eagerness to be part of the building of a vital and historic congregation. Can you regularly spend a few afternoon hours each week? Contact the synagogue office.

Angel Island Picnic

Women are invited to spend the afternoon on Angel Island picnicking and getting to know one another on Sunday, September 21. Bring food and beverages and meet at Pier 43½ in time to catch the 10:50 am ferry. Look for the member of the Women's Havurah holding a balloon. Ferries return from Angel Island to San Francisco at 3:50 and 5:25 pm. Roundtrip for the ferry is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.10 for children under 12.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Laurie Davis (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Artspec Imaging Ltd.

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-6594) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

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Social Action Committee

Fighting LaRouche; Supporting Sanctuary

In addition to the Supreme Court Forum on September 21 (see the article elsewhere in the *Forward*) the Social Action Committee is working on two other major projects:

Supporting Sanctuary Efforts: On July 26, three Sha'ar Zahavniks, Janine Baer, Lawney Baldwin and Ami Zusman, participated in a 12-mile walk to commemorate the 50,000 people who have been killed in El Salvador since the recent civil strife began—each step marking one of those who have been killed. The Walk-a-thon, which marched past Sha'ar Zahav and other Sanctuary congregations, was sponsored by the San Francisco Sanctuary Covenant. In addition, as part of the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition, Sha'ar Zahav currently has available Rosh Hashanah greeting cards, with proceeds from card sales to go toward support of Sanctuary efforts (see the article and insert elsewhere in the *Forward*). Russell Discher has been coordinating this major project, with assistance from many other members. Both the Rosh Hashanah card project and the Walk-a-thon will raise funds toward our goal of approximately

Defeating the LaRouche Initiative: Ron Lezell is heading a subcommittee, which includes Howard Taske and other concerned members, working to defeat Proposition 64, the AIDS-hysteria initiative on the November statewide ballot. Sha'ar Zahav has a special contribution to make in defeating this measure, by making the rest of the Jewish community aware of the threat that the LaRouche initiative poses not just to the gay but to the Jewish community. The subcommittee will provide speakers to talk with rabbis and members of other Bay Area Jewish congregations about the initiative and its impact.

Sha'ar Zahav is working closely with other groups to defeat the measure, and Ron has been appointed a liaison to the Jewish community in northern California by the Stop LaRouche Campaign. As part of our effort to defeat the measure, the Va'ad, at its August meeting, endorsed the San Francisco CAN/Stop LaRouche Campaign, a grassroots umbrella organization opposing the initiative.

(Continued on page 13)

Own Your Own Lulav

Celebrate Succot in style this year! You may order your own personal lulav and etrog set through the synagogue office. Shipped from Brooklyn, the set includes an etrog, lulav, myrtle and willow branches and a holder. A quality set costs \$23; a special set can be ordered for \$36. In order to purchase a set through the synagogue, we must receive payment for the full amount in the synagogue office by Friday, October 3. (Erev Succot is October 19).

High Holiday Schedule

Slichot/High Holiday Workshop

Saturday, September 27
Workshop, 9:00 pm
Services, 11:30 pm
(at Sha'ar Zahav)

First Day Rosh Hashanah

Friday, October 3, 7:30 pm
Saturday, October 4, 10:00 am

Tashlich after morning services held at Fort Point

Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Saturday, October 4, 6:00 pm
Sunday, October 5, 10:00 am
(Both services at Sha'ar Zahav)

Yom Kippur

Sunday, October 12
Kol Nidre, 7:30 pm

Monday, October 13
Shacharit, 10:00 am
Yiskor-Ne'ilah, 5:30 pm

All services to be held at the Unitarian Center, Franklin & Geary Streets, except as indicated.

AIDS Support Group(s)

The Congregation is in the process of forming support groups for family, friends and lovers of persons with AIDS. Each group of 6-8 persons is scheduled to meet once a week for 1½ hours at the synagogue. The groups will meet for 8 weeks minimum. If you are interested in emotional support during this time, please let the office know; leave your name, a daytime phone number and you will receive a follow-up call.

A High Saturday Night

The Education Committee, in collaboration with the Ritual Committee, is presenting a High Holy Days Workshop, Saturday night, September 27 at the synagogue. The evening will begin at 9pm with a Havdalah Service.

The workshop will commence with a discussion led by Rabbi Kahn on the stories, traditions and customs associated with the New Year. If you have always wanted to learn to blow a shofar, this is your chance. Leila Raim will offer semi-private lessons. The Ritual Committee will then demonstrate and teach some of our traditional music for the New Year. A dessert-fest will occur around 11pm, featuring traditional New Year desserts and a preview of recipes from the CSZ Cookbook.

Shortly before midnight, the Slichot Service will begin. Slichot are penitential prayers which prepare us for the Holy days, and which are traditionally recited on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. The service uses an original liturgy and concludes with a shofar blast heralding the forthcoming arrival of the New Year.

Be prepared for a full evening. Please call the synagogue office before September 10 for your reservation (we need to make sure there is lots of dessert). No fee.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained more new members in July and August. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Mirtha Beale
Michael Frank
Jane Graeven
Forrest Kincade
Frank Masson
Jeff Presement

Yael Silverberg & Luana Willis
Howard Taske & Steffan Powers
Joel Wasser

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Fear and Forgiveness

Many Americans have looked to non-Western religious traditions in search of spiritual discipline. In contrast to Western religion, Eastern faiths are viewed as more demanding, giving clearer direction, and facilitating personal spiritual growth. I have no quarrel with those who choose to follow a different spiritual tradition; I do not believe that Judaism holds a monopoly on religious truth. Sometimes, though, it seems that Judaism is inadequately understood.

The highlight of the Jewish religious calendar, the High Holidays, called in Hebrew the *Yamim Noraim* or Days of Awe, will be celebrated at the beginning of next month. Our members and friends participate for many different reasons—some come to pray, some for the special music, others because it is a time when all Jews come together. Many aren't sure why they come, but know that they have to be there. And, of course, it is an important social occasion in the life of the community. The tradition recognizes all of these motivations and accommodates them. But the real theme of the *Yamim Noraim* is personal change.

The High Holidays challenge us to strive for personal purity. This is a common theme in religions the world over. In Judaism this goal is reached not through withdrawal from the world but through living in the world. And this is why the discipline of the *Yamim Noraim* is so difficult. Our tradition teaches that holiness can only be experienced in the life of the world. It is created and found in the nitty-gritty of daily life.

The route to holiness is simply stated in a powerful sentence of the Mishnah: "For those transgressions between an individual and the Holy One, Yom Kippur atones; but for those transgressions between one person and another, Yom Kippur does not atone until you have returned to the person you have offended and obtained forgiveness." So simple on the surface—but oh how difficult in practice!

The Jewish New Year does not permit us to look forward to the new until we have settled all the accounts left over in the old. Prayer and internal remorse are necessary but insufficient for *teshuvah*, repentance. Transgression and *teshuvah* are similar to the breaking of a limb and its repair. If left untreated, the skin may

heal, the limb may become useable again—but within, the fracture remains broken or only partially reconnected. The proper care requires a return to the site of the injury, careful investigation of the fracture and corrective measures so that it can heal completely.

We rarely throw sticks and stones, but our words and deeds do injure those we love. It is an act of great courage to admit our errors and confess our faults. Many things have been said in haste which we instantly regretted. Actions motivated by the best of intentions are sometimes terribly misunderstood. Much of the time, we gingerly avoid the painful topic or even the person lest either be reminded. Rather than continue to cooperate in avoiding these difficult tasks, the High Holiday season urges us to overcome our fears and distance and return to the people we have harmed, whether by design or by accident.

When others ask us to forgive the hurts we have caused, let us be open and willing to accept their request. In so doing, we may learn to forgive and become more accepting of ourselves and our own transgressions against ourselves.

"The day is short, the work is difficult, the laborers are slow...but the reward is great and the Builder of the house is calling." [Pirkei Avot 2:20]

L'shanah tovah tikatevu!

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Birthdays

- 1 Tom Rothgiesser
- 2 Jeff Friedman
- 6 Lee Ryan
- 6 Rosalinda del Moral
- 7 Al Baum
- 9 Jeremy Hoggman
- 9 Deborah Pines
- 9 Mark Weisman
- 12 Robin Leonard
- 14 Kip Leyser
- 19 Rob Tat
- 21 Steven Cronenwalt
- 21 Janine Baer
- 21 Laurie Radovsky
- 27 Ralph Vissell
- 28 Catherine Wisniewski

Does God Punish with AIDS?

As a response to a letter in Reform Judaism about his article recently published there, Mike Rankin addresses head-on a popular myth. We reprint his letter here.

Mr. Aaron Hirt-Mannheimer, Editor
Reform Judaism

Dear Aaron:

In his letter in the Summer issue of *Reform Judaism*, written in response to my article on AIDS, Mordecai Abromson says the following: "Can anyone familiar with Deuteronomy 28 rule out the possibility that AIDS is in fact divine punishment for willful and deliberate violation of a clear Torah prohibition (against homosexuality)?"

I am appalled by Mr. Abromson's question. I am appalled every time I hear the question, and I have heard it many times in recent years. I get it from religious fundamentalists of all stripes, from television preachers, from right-wing politicians and Lubavicher rebbes.

What kind of god do these individuals worship? If they believe God punishes with disease, and if they are convinced that AIDS is punishment for homosexuality, then surely polio must have been punishment for childhood naughtiness, and sickle cell anemia for the "sin" of being black.

Who is so arrogant as to claim such intimate knowledge of God's devices; who so heartless, so thoughtless as to suppose that AIDS is among them?

There is a prayer in the siddur of our congregation that I would like to share with Mr. Abromson, It is the best answer I can give him:

Let the day come which is all Shabbat, when all people, all religions, all sexualities rejoice as one family, all children of your creation. Help us bring near the time of redemption—when violence gives way to gentleness, when force gives way to love. Then will Your presence be manifest is a world deserving of a God of peace.

Of peace, Mr. Abromson, and of compassion, and of love. Not of AIDS.

Advance Report

Wildwood Resort was once again the destination, and July 11-13 the weekend, for CSZ's annual Advance. Rob Tat, Irene Ogus, David Shaber, and Richard Inlander organized a wildly successful weekend of productive and harmonious discussions and study sessions, free-time activities, and, of course, Shabbat services. Over two dozen members of CSZ, with committee chairs, officers, and Va'ad members among them, gathered to participate in important discussions about CSZ's ritual life; our Jewish traditions about death and dying; and how we need to take care of ourselves and others; money and fiscal plans for the coming year; and effective committee meeting process.

Eric Keitel, Susan Unger, and other members of the Ritual Committee led Shabbat evening services on a golden hilltop overlooking redwoods, and mountain meadows. (As we shared this hilltop with numerous, rather fierce-looking ants, the service was held with linked hands, standing!)

After Shabbat dinner, introductions were shared, and we all learned new things about each other, our parents, and best friends.

Shabbat morning services, led by Rabbi Kahn, included a Torah study session that examined Jewish traditions and teachings, and customs on death and dying.

Irene Ogus described her expectations as the new president of Sha'ar Zahav, and introduced a discussion of perfection and its costs and benefits. Susan Colson ably facilitated this and many other discussions during the weekend, including one of how to have good meeting. The results began to show even during the Advance, and, will hopefully take effect in our committee meetings throughout the year.

Don Albert discussed the \$40,000 mortgage still owed on the synagogue building, payments for which will begin in November. He also described preliminary plans for involving newer members of CSZ, who joined after the building had been purchased, in a new Building Fund campaign. Eric Keitel described the functions of the new Dues Education Committee, which will work with the Membership Committee to inform new members about the financial needs of the synagogue and how members are directly responsible for fulfilling them. Later discussions focused on how the synagogue

plans fund raising and spending, including ways to encourage increased members' contributions.

Free-time activities during the weekend included hot-tubbing, swimming, eating, schmoozing, sun-bathing, and movie-watching. Saturday evening at "Lake Mishpocha" was a time for tales, dreams, and reminiscences, tales of special moments in our lives, a memorable and intimate entertainment produced and directed by Ralph Frischman. After Shabbat ended, Rabbi Kahn led Havdalah.

Small groups were formed to discuss the sources, evolution, and direction of CSZ

rituals. Other brainstorming sessions allowed participants to describe their fondest dreams for CSZ for the next year, and for 2, 5, and 10 years from now.

Richard Inlander opened an intense discussion Sunday morning about coping with the dying of a loved one, and how taking care of the dying person can include taking care of oneself.

Attendees of this year's Advance are probably even now looking forward to next year's, and are hoping it will be as harmonious, interesting, well planned, and productive!

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

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Family Havurah at the Holidays

Sha'ar Zahav's own Family Havurah will be meeting again on Sunday, September 28, from 11 am-1 pm at the synagogue for a High Holidays program and a potluck brunch. Rabbi Kahn will be sharing information on the holidays and their observance. Although children of all ages are invited to our gathering, the Rabbi's presentation will be specifically geared towards pre-school age children.

Please join with our growing family as we get to know one another, sharing our concerns, our joys, and our desire to know more about our religious and cultural heritage. Remember, all are welcome to participate. Please call the synagogue office for more information and to RSVP.

Oneg Sponsors

During June and July, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

June 13, Shavuot morning: Alex Ingersoll, David Stein, Aaron Cooper, Mark Mendelow, Sharyn Saslafsky, Dana Vinicoff, Frank Hyman and David Shaber.

Flowers: Paul Cohen, Ron Lezell and Bruce Katz in memory of Duff Kreitzberg

June 13, evening: Susan Unger, to celebrate the harvest and her new job

June 20: Membership Committee, in honor of our new members

June 27: Ron Shore, in honor of his great uncle Paul Burstein

Flowers: Don Albert, in honor of Irene Ogus and the Congregation

July 4: Mike Rankin, in honor of Rabbi Kahn's first year at Sha'ar Zahav

July 11: Laurent Gasperini in honor of Jonathan Funk and family; and Laurent's birthday

Flowers: Jonathan Funk in honor of his parents' visit and Laurent Gasperini's birthday

July 18: Anonymous

July 25: Peter Abinanti, Frank Masson, Phyllis Press

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is approximately \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Supreme Court (Continued from page 1)

has established in California the right to be openly gay in the workplace without fear of dismissal, the right to be free from arrest for expressing gay or lesbian sexuality, and the right to live where one chooses.

The Court has also been consistent in its protection of the rights of other minorities, women, single parents and other non-traditional families, the State's fragile environment, renters and consumers. Much of the attack on the justices has been orchestrated by opponents of gay rights, reproductive rights, and other civil liberties, who disagree with the court politically.

The court has been criticized for allowing an increase in crime, in spite of a steady decline in the rate of serious crime in the State since 1980. It has been accused of handing out lighter sentences than those imposed in other states, despite statistics to the contrary. The Supreme Court is blamed for overturning convictions and letting dangerous criminals go free, even though it only reversed 20 out of 55,000 convictions in a single recent year, ordering retrials in each case. A major argument against the Court has been that it refuses to uphold the death penalty, ignoring the will of the people. In fact, the law requires the Court to review every death sentence, and in almost every case all or all but one of the justices have agreed that the death penalty could not stand. According to its critics, under this Court convicted killers have gone free, whereas in actuality the minimum sentence in all overturned cases has been life in prison with no chance of parole.

The Court also has been accused of being "anti-business." The decisions cited in this regard include: the one which outlawed blanket policies of discrimination in housing against families with children; the ruling which declared that counties could regulate pesticides within their borders; the one which gave a telephone company employee the right to sue his employer for injuries received on the job—all decisions which uphold the rights of individuals or the public against large corporations or landowners. Archibald Cox, referring to the upcoming election, said,

"...the ideal of judicial independence is threatened...if public figures or the media make issues out of particular judicial decisions or

even the general course of decisions rendered by judges up for election. Making the votes referenda on the judges' rulings carries the danger of politicizing the course of decision."

A strong and independent judicial system, free from pressure politics, is the cornerstone of a government which places high value on the rights of the people. The real criteria in the retention of justices should be their competence and integrity, not the political consequences of their decisions or their popularity. A *Los Angeles Times* editorial put it quite clearly:

"Justices who apply the law and the Constitution fairly and honestly are doing what they are supposed to do, and they deserve public support even when some of their decisions are unpopular. Removing justices because they fail a political test is a distortion of democracy."

The independent judiciary must be protected from the pressures to conform to the "majority will" if they are to safeguard the constitutional principles designated to protect minorities, including Jews, gay men and lesbians.

—Jonathan Mesinger, with assistance from Allyce Kimerling

UAHC Social Action Seminar

A special Seminar on Social Action is planned for the weekend of September 20-21 sponsored by the Northern California Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The seminar will address a number of current issues including many controversial ones: nuclear arms and human rights, economic justice in our society, AIDS in our communities, Jewish ties to blacks and other minorities, and sanctuary for Central American refugees.

UAHC Vice President, Albert Vorspan, will be keynote speaker for this conference. Vorspan is a national figure in the Jewish community, who has long been a leader in the area of social justice. He has written many books on these topics, and is acknowledged as an outstanding speaker.

For further information, contact the UAHC office at 392-7080.

SEPTEMBER

לילד-ב

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	27 Av 1	28 2	29 3 Newsletter Comm. 1772 Sanchez, 7pm	30 4 Rosh Chodesh I Membership Comm. 330 Collingwood, 7pm	1 Elul 5 Rosh Chodesh II Services, 8:15pm	2 6
3 7	4 8 Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	5 9 Bikkur Cholim Comm. 7:30pm	6 10 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	7 11 Social Action Comm. 7:30pm	8 12 Services 8:15pm	9 13
10 14	11 15	12 16	13 17	14 18	15 19 Services 8:15pm	16 20 UAHC Social Action Seminar, San Mateo (2 days)
17 21 Women's Havurah Picnic, Angel Island. Supreme Court Forum, 7pm	18 22	19 23	20 24 Newsletter Mailing 11 Grandview Terr., 7:30pm	21 25 Ritual Comm. 6:30pm	22 26 Services 8:15pm	23 27 Morning Services, 10:30am Slichot Workshop/ Services, 9pm
24 28 Family Havurah Gathering, 11am	25 29	26 30				

Ritual Calendar

Friday, September 5

Parshah: Shofetim, Deut. 16:18-21:9

Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12-52:12

Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Sue Douglass

Friday, September 12

Parshah: Ki-Tetze, Deut. 21:10-25:19

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-10

Leslie Bergson

Friday, September 19

Parshah: Ki-Tavo, Deut. 26:1-29:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22

Daniel Chesir

Friday, September 26

Parshah: Nitzavim-Va-Yelekh,
Deut. 29:9-31:30

Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

Eric Keitel

Saturday, September 27

Morning Service, 10:30 am

Leslie Bergson

Slichot

Workshop 9 am

Services 11:30 pm

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Fall Semester Classes Announced

Three classes have been scheduled by the Education Committee for the ten-session Fall Semester which begins the week of October 6. Rabbi Kahn will lead two classes on Tuesday evenings: "Prayer and Liturgy of the Synagogue" and "A Jewish Look at the Five Books." On Thursdays, Leslie Bergson will lead, "Creating a Jewish Home Life—An Experiential Workshop."

The Experiential Workshop will explore the traditions, practices and values that go into living a Jewish life. The group will study the origins of past and present practices, share experiences and create new and personally meaningful rituals. The course will include one Sabbath evening and one Sabbath day spent together eating, learning, singing and observing. Other topics will include daily prayer, kashrut and life cycle ceremonies.

"A Jewish Look at the Five Books" continues our popular study, in English, of the Torah. Enrollment in previous classes is

not required for the new semester which will include: the golden calf, the dedication of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, and other portions from the Books of Exodus and Leviticus. The class examines the Biblical text and discusses the commentaries of ancient and modern teachers.

The questions of why do we pray and what Judaism has taught about the meaning of prayer will begin the class on "prayer and liturgy in the synagogue." An examination of the liturgy of the Friday evening service will enhance the meaningfulness of the worship experience. This will include a comparison of Sha'ar Zahav's prayerbook with other prayerbooks in common use today. The sessions will include a mixture of lecture, discussion and experience. Preregistration is required for all classes, using the registration form. Scholarships are available by contacting the Rabbi. Class size is limited to optimize participation and learning, so make sure you register early.

Mark Landsberger 1954-1986

With great sadness, we observe the passing of a dear member of our congregation, Mark Landsberger. On Thursday evening, August 7, Mark finally succumbed in his 18-month battle against AIDS. His struggle against his disease was marked by great courage and dignity.

Mark moved to San Francisco five years ago from his hometown of Jericho, N.Y. A tireless student, he enjoyed a distinguished academic career, graduating in 1976 with honors from Dartmouth University, followed by an MBA from Harvard. He put his education to good use when he came to the Bay Area to assume the post of Materials Manager for Atari. During 1985,

deteriorating health tragically interrupted his career.

Mark's family and friends will not forget his colorful sense of humor, his tireless energy and his warm and friendly personality. His easy-going manner insured that he was always surrounded by dozens of close friends. Even in his illness, we found it a joy to cook his food, care for his needs and give him love and encouragement. We will miss him deeply.

Mark is survived by his parents Lillian and Jerry, his sister Joan, and many loving friends. Contributions in his memory can be sent to the Shanti Project, 890 Hayes St., San Francisco, CA 94117 or to Sha'ar Zahav's AIDS Fund.

Zichrono l'vracha—May his memory be blessed.

Bikkur Cholim Survey

The Bikkur Cholim Committee has been actively designing a program of support for members and friends facing the problems of a major illness and/or death. Rabbi Kahn has introduced traditional Jewish community support ideas and has taken the lead through his pastoral care duties.

In recent months, a number of members have called upon us for assistance. Our ability to respond to requests for help needs your support, and most importantly, information on your ability to help. Included with members' Newsletters is an *Interest Inventory* developed by the committee to aid the Congregation in serving both members and isolated elderly Jews in the community.

Please take the time to complete the interest inventory and return it to the Synagogue this month. This will enable us to announce our ability to provide programs of traditional support during the holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as well as throughout the year.

UAHC Social Action Seminar

A special Seminar on Social Action is planned for the weekend of September 20-21 sponsored by the Northern California Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The seminar will address issues which are current and timely, including some that are controversial: Nuclear Arms and Human Rights, Economic Justice in our Society, AIDS in our Communities, Jewish ties to Blacks and other Minorities, and Sanctuary for Central American Refugees.

Albert Vorspan, UAHC Vice President, will be keynote speaker for this conference. Vorspan is a prominent national leader in the Jewish community, and has long been in the forefront of social justice movements, articulating the prophetic call of Reform Judaism. He is author of numerous books on these topics, and is acknowledged as an outstanding speaker.

For further information, please call the Synagogue office, or the UAHC Regional office, 392-7080.

July Va'ad Report

Beginning the first 1986-87 Va'ad meeting, attended by new officers, new and continuing members of the Va'ad, and numerous interested CSZ members and committee chairs, President Irene Ogus observed that *shalom bayit* (peace of the house) is a concept in CSZ's Bylaws that governs Va'ad meetings. Rabbi Kahn, in his *D'var Torah*, reviewed the lessons of Korach's rebellion against Moses (the penalty was the earth's opening up and swallowing Korach and his followers!)—leaders serve at the people's pleasure; our duty to our leaders is to listen to them, and to allow them to lead, as they have been entrusted to do.

In her President's report, Irene noted that in accordance with CSZ's Covenant of Sanctuary, Sha'ar Zahav's name will be shown as a sponsor on the stationery of the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition. Following her request, the Va'ad approved a motion for distributing funds allocated during the Me'ot Chittim Appeal to the AIDS Food Bank and MAZON equally. In his Treasurer's report, Jerry Rosenstein estimated that the current budget deficit is between \$4500 and \$5000. This amount approximately equals the amount of uncollected 1985-86 dues, all of which Jerry expects will eventually be collected.

Rabbi Kahn reported that recently he enjoyed serving on the faculty at UAHC Camp Swig—an opportunity for CSZ to do outreach and for him to make connections with other rabbis and staff people at Camp Swig. Rabbi Kahn also emphasized he is willing and available to meet with groups having particular interests.

In her secretary's report, Jacqueline Letalien said she has requested committee rosters from committee chairs, and she is working on procedures for acknowledging donations.

The Va'ad considered and enthusiastically approved five new memberships presented by Membership chair Robin Leonard. The Va'ad also approved a list of items and prices for memorial dedications that was produced by the Building and Finance Committee. Memorial dedications can be made by individuals or groups; these contributions are critical to CSZ's financial well-being in the coming year.

The Sha'ar Zahav marching contingent at the parade seemed to be the largest anyone could remember, with over 60 people marching—something we can be proud

(Continued on page 13)

Dedication/Memorial Program

A number of areas in and around our sanctuary contain dedications. During the Building Campaign, members and friends were given the opportunity to place these dedications as remembrances for loved ones. After two years of discussion, the Va'ad has approved a new program for the dedication of additional features of our sanctuary and office area.

This is a wonderful opportunity to create a lasting remembrance and provide Sha'ar Zahav with your additional support. Dedications are available to individuals as well as groups, members, and friends of our Congregation.

Listed below are the items available for dedication. Next to each item is the requested donation to memorialize or honor someone close to you.

Ark	\$15,000*
Ner Tamid	\$10,000*
Window (rear)	\$ 4,000*
Window (side)	\$ 3,500*
Torah table	\$ 4,500*
Lectern	\$ 2,500*
Bimah Chair	\$ 2,500
Pew	\$ 2,500
Memorial Board	\$ 4,500
Rabbi's Study	\$ 6,000
Upstairs meeting room	\$ 5,000
Library wall	\$ 3,000
Secretary's office	\$ 2,000
Prayerbooks	
-Friday night	\$ 36
-Saturday morning	\$ 36
-Rosh Hashanah	\$ 36
-Yom Kippur	\$ 36

An asterisk indicates that the cost of creating the dedication does not include the purchase of the item itself. The purchase of the item will be discussed with the person(s) interested in dedicating it.

Last month's *Forward* included an article on the Congregation's Yahrzeit (Memorial) Board. Individual plaques can be ordered by contacting the Synagogue Office. The cost is \$360. Individuals or couples (parents, grandparents, etc.) can be memorialized on one plaque. For those of you who are interested in more information about the dedication items, please contact the Chair of the Finance Committee, Don Albert, 641-5113. Payment in installments can be arranged for all items.

Rosh Hashanah Cards

Through a cooperative project involving Sha'ar Zahav as part of the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition, original design, limited edition cards for Rosh Hashanah/Jewish New Year are available for purchase. The cards, in shades of ivory, brown and blue, are in a 4 x 6 inch postcard format and are pictured in reduced size on the enclosed flyer. There are ten individual cards per package: each package sells for \$4.00 (plus \$.50 if ordered by mail).

Purchase of the cards is a meaningful way to send New Year greetings while strengthening Sha'ar Zahav's commitment to the Covenant of Sanctuary it adopted earlier this year. Proceeds from sale of cards purchased through Sha'ar Zahav or our members will go toward our goal of raising approximately \$3,000 for a revolving bond fund. This fund will enable refugees who have fled violence and persecution in El Salvador and Guatemala to live in freedom as they pursue polit-

ical asylum. Through our synagogue's representation on the Coalition, proceeds from cards sold at stores and other outlets will further local, national and international efforts to provide protection, support and advocacy to these refugees.

Cards may be ordered through the form on the enclosed flyer. They are also available at the synagogue during regular office hours. For information on other outlets in the Bay Area where the cards can be purchased, or additional information on the project, call Russell at (415) 922-6946. Purchases and contributions made through CSZ are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The cards may also be ordered directly from the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition, P.O. Box 1253, San Francisco, CA 94101-1253. We would appreciate your assistance as well in passing on information about this project to others whom you feel might be interested.

—Social Action Committee

David Harvey Kotch 1947-1986

Our good friend David Kotch died on August 2. We will miss him as a member of our Congregation and as a friend. He is especially mourned by his lover Michael Erceg and his family. On August 4, Rabbi Kahn led a memorial service, describing the moving story of David's rich life and close relationships with family and friends.

David's caring spirit shines through in the following letter which he wrote shortly before his death to past-president Don Albert:

Dear Don:

I am writing this letter to you as a friend and as president of Sha'ar Zahav, in that order. I greatly appreciate your concern and concrete help with insurance and all that b.s.

When I began attending services approximately two and a half years ago, I was searching for a spiritual direction that was lacking in my life. I have certainly found that, and these last weeks have bolstered my faith and it sustains me.

The wonderful "extras" that have emerged and continue to grow at Temple have been fantastic and joyful surprises. I have always been blessed with great friends and a family that, when all is said and done, does come through for me. The level of love and caring from Sha'ar Zahav has given me even more great friends and a larger dynamic family.

I treasure this, and the unexpected nature of the quality, not only from you, but from many people, multiplies my joy. My intention is to return a fraction of the joy I have received. Shalom and love,

Zichrono l'vracha—May his memory be blessed.

Spotlight on...

Jonathan Mesinger

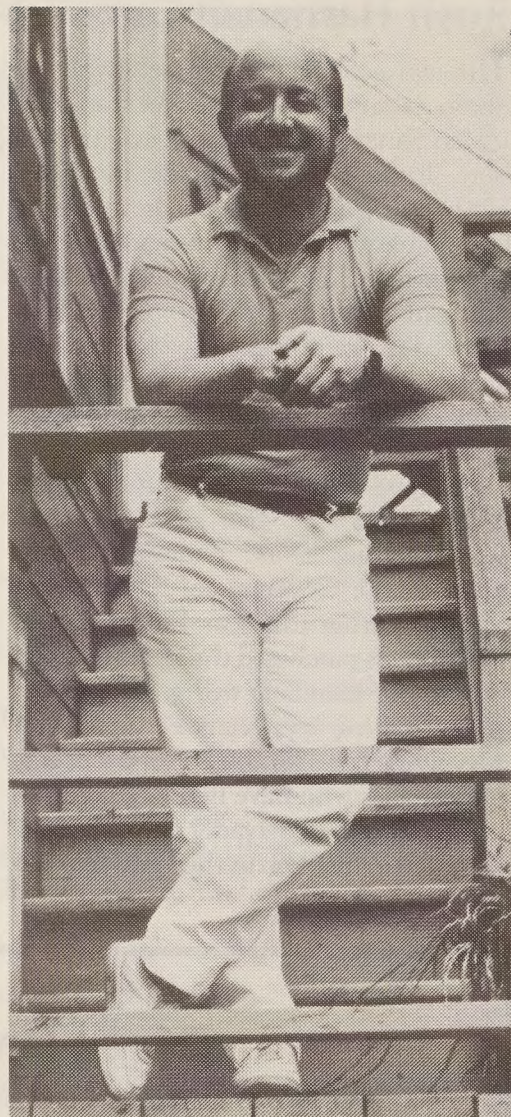
It has only been a year since Jonathan Mesinger moved here from Cincinnati. But almost since the day he arrived, Sha'ar Zahav has been close to his heart. Two weeks after arriving here he attended our High Holy Day service at the Unitarian Center and cried through the entire thing. Not surprisingly, he joined almost immediately. Synagogue affiliation came naturally to him, as his father was president of his home town synagogue and his mother was president of the shul's Women's Guild.

Aside from his family tradition, Jonathan felt that he'd found a kindred feminist spirit in our Rabbi. Feminism is a big part of his life. Jonathan is founding editor of *Changing Men* magazine, an active participant in the feminist men's movement, and part-time secretary at a rape crisis center. He was married to a feminist woman for 9 years and says, "She really taught me a lot." Now many of his activities revolve around the issues of men's violence and sexism.

One reason Jonathan moved to San Francisco was its politically active environment. But even back in the Midwest, where he was a geography professor, he managed to be active. He was a founding editor of a gay newspaper in Cincinnati and was part of a gay and lesbian havurah. Still, he found political activity was frustrating there. "If I didn't take responsibility for doing things, nothing would happen."

Sha'ar Zahav's Social Action Committee and Jonathan Mesinger are a match made in political heaven. His first volunteer task was to write an article about Sanctuary for the *Forward* on behalf of his new committee. He needed to get involved and says that social action is a good place for him. It's what he does anyway, so it makes sense to do it at shul.

Last January, when it was our turn to do the Tenderloin lunch for indigent and senior Jews, Jonathan put it together. That may not be part of the standard job description for a geography professor, but as the years go by, he's more interested in a closer relationship to people than teaching can provide. At the university, he counseled gay and lesbian college students and realized that what he enjoyed most was listening to people talk about their lives. Thus the professor became a student. In a mid-life career, he entered a two-year program at New College of Cal-



ifornia; at this time next year, he hopes to have an M.A. in clinical psychology. As part of the program, he'll be interning at Operation Concern. Now he's going to be making a living doing what's important to him.

But wait! There's more... He has another part-time job teaching children to defend themselves against abuse. He is a member of the Gay Domestic Violence Task Group, and the task group of Men Overcoming Violence. This much activity could be enough to turn most people violent, but Jonathan has a technique for coping: he knows that he doesn't have to take on a major role to make an impact. As a Sha'ar Zahav volunteer, he's appreciated for any task he does. Besides, he knows how to relax; he sings in the Sha'ar Zahav ensemble!

Jonathan Mesinger has only been with us for a year, but he's already fully integrated into the openly gay and active community he dreamed of back in the Midwest. He came to us with a serious psychological problem though: "I'm a compulsive volunteer." Here at Sha'ar Zahav, we know what to do with lunatics like that; fortunately the prognosis is "incurable."

—Laurie Davis

August Va'ad Report

The regular second-Monday-of-the-month meeting of the Va'ad convened on August 11, with the usual cadre of officers and Va'ad members present. Various committee chairs and CSZ members also attended. (CSZ members are encouraged to attend meetings of the Va'ad.) In place of a *D'var Torah* from Rabbi Kahn, who was on vacation, CSZ President Irene Ogus asked those present to reflect on the ways that we help one another.

In her Presidents' report, Irene described the success of a presentation to the UAHC President's Council that was held at our shul, "How to Use Your Bulletin for Effective Communication," attended by over 20 leaders of Northern California Congregations. Irene also outlined a process to be used in considering the renewal of Rabbi Kahn's contract, which expires June 30 next year. Irene read two letters of appreciation sent to Sha'ar Zahav, one from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation Food Bank, and another from Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in New York City, in appreciation of CSZ's advertisement commemorating the Bar/Bat Mitzvah (thirteenth anniversary) of our sibling congregation.

In his Treasurer's report, Jerry Rosenstein noted the progress of the dues pledge campaign, with about half of CSZ's members having sent in their pledges. This means that about half of CSZ's members have *not* sent in their pledges, and should do so as soon as possible. Rabbi Kahn's written report mentioned that he has been appointed to the Central Conference of American Rabbis' ad hoc Committee on Homosexuality, which will make recommendations on placement and admissions to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He also described additional planned events for the High Holiday season this year.

Membership Committee chair Robin Leonard presented four new memberships, which the Va'ad unanimously approved. Robin also reported on the workings of the Dues Education Subcommittee, whose purpose is to inform new members of the financial commitments that go along with membership.

Social Action chair Ami Zusman reported that Ron Lezell is heading a subcommittee that will provide speakers and information to the Bay Area Jewish community regarding efforts to defeat Proposition 64. The Va'ad unanimously

(Continued on page 11)

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Stephen Walters
 Rabbi Erwin & Agnes Herman
 Sandra Blair, in honor of the adoption of CSZ's Sanctuary Covenant
 Murial Garcia
 Cheryl Orvis & Beth, in honor of Harry Berenstein on dedication of Berenstein family chapel
 Alex Ingersoll, in appreciation of Stephanie Hannaford & Bob Goldware's dedication to the newsletter
 Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman
 Sarah Hannaford
 Sam Thal, in honor of Frank Hyman's birthday
 Theodore Ruskin
 Don Albert, in honor of birthdays of Jay Feinstein & Eve Meyer
 Bill Ashley-Dobbin
 Jack Leister, in honor of Ed Gabay receiving his Ph.D.
 Allan Berenstein, in memory of Grandmother Perel Berenstein on her yahrzeit
 Catherine Wisniewski & Leila Raim, in honor of outgoing officers
 Jay Feinstein, in memory of Herbert Stimmel
 Sen Talley, in appreciation of Sharyn Saslafsky and in honor of Jay Feinstein's birthday
 Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman
 Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman, in honor of birthdays of Jay Feinstein & Eve Meyer
 Jonathan Funk, in honor of Dan Chesir & Stefan Rowniak's new home; in honor of David Kotch & Michael Erceg's "Kiddushin;" in honor of Cheryl Orvis & Beth's new home; in honor of Don Albert's term as president
 Sharyn Saslafsky & Stephanie Hannaford, in honor of the Berenstein Chapel, Adath Israel
 Steve Elman, in honor of Adam Inlander's confirmation; Tiela Chalmers' graduation from law school; in honor of new Va'ad members; in appreciation of the dedication of outgoing Va'ad and officers
 John Arnold, in honor of Jonathan Funk's birthday
 Gerald Ondercin

David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, in honor of Allan Berenstein and sons on the occasion of the dedication of the Berenstein family chapel at Adath Israel

Education Fund

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Education Committee & Paul Cohen

AIDS Fund

Michael Bettinger, in memory of Arthur Felson
 Elliot Schneck, in memory of Ron Gertz
 Rabbi Steven Folberg, in honor of the Congregation's work

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Cheryl Orvis

Building Fund

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of David Gellman

Library Fund

Cindy Schorr, in memory of Abraham Schorr

Women's Havurah Plans Active Year

On August 1, one of the largest congregations ever to assemble in the sanctuary participated in a service planned and led by women as the first activity of this year's Women's Havurah.

A full year is planned with a diversity of activities. Mark your calendar now to participate each month.

September 21	Angel Island picnic
October 11	Blood Drive
November 15	Potluck/Havdallah Hot Tub
December 7	Games/baby picture guessing
January 16	Pre-Shabbat dinner
February 15	Folk Dancing
March 21	Video Movies
April 12	Magnes Museum
May 17	Softball/barbeque
June 21	Solstice pool party

In addition to the listed events, an ad-hoc committee of the Women's Havurah is planning a weekend Women's Conference for the Spring. (Please see article elsewhere in this issue of the *Forward*.)

August Va'ad

(Continued from page 10)

approved the endorsement by CSZ of the SF/CAN Stop LaRouche campaign. A forum at Sha'ar Zahav on the Supreme Court is another urgent concern of the Social Action Committee.

Paul Cohen, chair of the Bikkur Cholim Committee, described the formation of a support group for the lovers, family, and friends of people with AIDS. The Bikkur Cholim Committee identified the need to secure a volunteer (professional) facilitator for that group. CSZ member Walter Palmer will serve as the source person for this group and related efforts.

Finance Committee chair Don Albert told the Va'ad that the possibility of refinancing the mortgage on the synagogue building was considered, but was not appropriate at this time. CSZ Vice President Richard Inlander distributed up-to-date copies of CSZ's Bylaws, and noted that additional copies are available through the synagogue office.

Peter Abinanti, chair of the Oneg Committee, requested that he or Jacqueline be notified if Oneg sponsors are providing food, so that Peter does not order too much. Social Program chair Shirley Liberman noted that the date of the Chanukah party will be December 27. UAHC Liaison Mike Rankin was glad to report to the Va'ad that the issue of the UAHC publication *Keeping Posted* addressing homosexuality will be dedicated to Harvey Milk. The new chair of the Education Committee, Bill Goldstein, commented on the success of the Summer Reading Program and outlined the committee's future programs. Bill also noted that a volunteer is needed in CSZ's library.

As is customary at the conclusion of Va'ad meetings, those who attended joined in the singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

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So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

On my box of matzoh meal it says "challah is taken." Is this the reason the box isn't full when I get it open? And anyway, why is challah taken when the box has matzoh meal in it? Why can't the rabbis whose names are all over the box put a stop to this taking of challah?

Curious in Cupertino

Dear Curious,

So from Silicon Valley funny letters Aunt Yente is now getting? A Comedian in Cupertino she needs? Soon, maybe, she can expect Sonnets from Sunnyvale. One more funny letter from you and Aunt Yente will download your macros.

Your question, however, Aunt Yente is glad to get. Not that the ritual point keeps many people awake at night, but Aunt Yente too sees those words on her matzoh meal, and she's been waiting for a chance to show that she knows what they mean.

Your problem is that you are thinking when it says "challah" it means *eppes* "challah." How silly! Every Yente knows that when a matzoh meal box says *challah*, it doesn't mean challah, but rather *challah*. That is to say (Aunt Yente is getting almost as tired of this as you are) *challah* here doesn't mean braided egg bread we eat on Shabbos; instead, it means the custom of taking and burning a small piece of dough whenever we make bread. The small piece that is burned is called *challah*, so when it says "challah is taken" it means—you get the idea.

But why do we need to burn dough now that we can afford a Wolf stove? And why is the custom called *challah*? Well, *kinderlach*, in the Torah it says that when we make dough, we should take a piece off to make a little cake to give to the priests. The Hebrew word the Torah uses for "cake" is *challah*. So this is how the *challah* custom starts. But if the Torah says give it to the priests, why do we burn it? Because nowadays, there are no priests who are in a proper state of purity to eat the priests' portion. (This has nothing to do with how often they take showers. Ritual purity is a whole other *megillah*, including items like burned-up red cows, which Aunt Yente tries not to worry about.) Since there are no priests pure enough to eat it, but since we don't want to forget the mitzvah, so the rabbis said to take the *challah* and burn it. A similar change has been instituted in the *pidion ha-ben* ceremony. It used to be that first-born children were given to the priest to be redeemed, but

now we burn them. (Just checking to see if you are awake, *kinderlach*.)

Another sidelight that may interest some of Aunt Yente's readers is that, according to the Mishnah, while a woman may perform the ceremony of separating the *challah* naked, a naked man may not. If you want more details, so read the Mishnah; please do not ask Aunt Yente.

So now we've reached the point in the column where Aunt Yente usually explains that even though a custom may be a little silly, it has *eppes* deeper meaning that makes it worth following. But you know what, *kinderlach*? Aunt Yente thinks that taking off and burning *challah* is a silly custom entirely, and she cannot support it. Certainly we should remember that we owe to God each time we make our bread, the bread we are so lucky to have enough. But better we should do this by baking an extra loaf and giving it to the hungry, or putting a coin in a box in the kitchen for the same purpose. It is beyond Aunt Yente's talent for explaining to say how God is pleased by deliberately wasting food, even as a symbol, in a world where people starve.

—Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1986 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Adoption on Channel 9

Sha'ar Zahav member Russell Discher was one of several people interviewed recently for a program on new trends in adoption and the problems with traditional, closed adoptions. Titled "Loving Couple Seeks Infant," the half-hour show will be aired on Wednesday, September 3 at 8 pm on KQED, Channel 9.

Most people know at least one person involved in some way with the adoption process as an adoptee, birthparent, or adoptive parent, and the adoption experience has implications for many issues of concern to gays and lesbians, such as adoptive parenting and artificial insemination, so the topic should be of interest to many Bay Area viewers.

Anyone who wants more information about adoption-related books or support groups, or who wants to talk about adoption experiences, can call Janine Baer in Berkeley at 524-3586.

Want to be in a good "space?"

How about this one!

If you want to place an ad for your business, contact Jay Feinstein, 621-6594.

Yahrzeits

Peter Lorenzo Abinanti, Sr.,
Father of Peter Abinanti
Nathan Miller, Father of
G. Murray Miller

- 1 Gus Liebowitz, Grandfather of Robin Leonard
- 3 Nathan Hyman, Father of Frank Hyman
- 4 Abraham Parker, Father of Harold Parker
- 5 Samuel Brouwenstein, Grandfather of Michael Barclay
- 5 Lillian Schrager, Mother of Alan Schrager
- 14 (10 Elul) Dora Solomon, Grandmother of Paul Schwartz
- 15 Bertha Goldstein, Grandmother of Robert Goldware
- 15 (11 Elul) Maurice Ash, Father of Terry Rothchild
- 16 Ira Fiul, Uncle of Carol Fiul
- 17 Samuel Berkowitz, Grandfather of Roberta W.
- 19 Enid Feld, Cousin of Ed Leven
- 22 (18 Elul) Samuel Albert, Grandfather of Don Albert
- 23 Fannie Stein, Mother of David Stein
- 24 (20 Elul) Frances Cohen, Sister of Bernard Pechter
- 25 Rho Barrett, Friend of Betty Kalis
- 26 Dora Siegel Weinstein, Grandmother of Barry Siegel
- 26 Jeanette Solomon Toporek, Mother of Elliott Toporek
- 28 (24 Elul) Yetta Skolnik, Grandmother of Hal Heller
- 29 Albert Stein, Father of David Stein

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Anniversaries

- 1 Susan Ganz & Diane Kuchins
- 13 Nancy Meyer & Marilyn O'Keeffe
- 23 Betty Kalis & Marion Trentman

Women's Spring Weekend

One fateful Sunday last May, the Women's Havurah sat down and brainstormed up a year's worth of activities. The first of these was the recent Friday night Women's Service, which seemed to galvanize women within and outside Sha'ar Zahav into one gay, Jewish spiritual community. The exuberance of that event is still buoying the nine women who have formed an ad hoc committee of the Havurah to put on a weekend event in the spring of 1987 for the women of Sha'ar Zahav, their lovers and friends.

This weekend is designed to be a getaway where we can solidify our women's community, acquire new members, and develop leadership among women who are already members. We will attempt to create Jewish rituals uniquely tailored for women and explore the ramifications of being a Jewish feminist.

If you enjoyed the recent Women's Service and would like to see more of the same, be sure to check in at the special Women's Table at High Holy Day Services for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

Check it out.
Besides the benefits,
it feels good to be
part of Sha'ar Zahav.

Social Action

(Continued from page 3)

\$3,000 for a revolving bond fund, to enable refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and other oppressive regimes to seek political asylum in the U.S. This goal is part of the commitment we made in adopting a Covenant of Sanctuary last May.

UAHC Social Action Conference: On September 20-21, the UAHC will hold a conference in San Mateo on major social issues, including AIDS, Sanctuary, U.S.-Soviet Relations, Jewish-Black relations and other topics. We urge all interested members to attend. More information on costs and schedule will be available from the CSZ office.

Next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be Thursday, September 11 at 7:30 pm.

—Ami Zusman, Chair

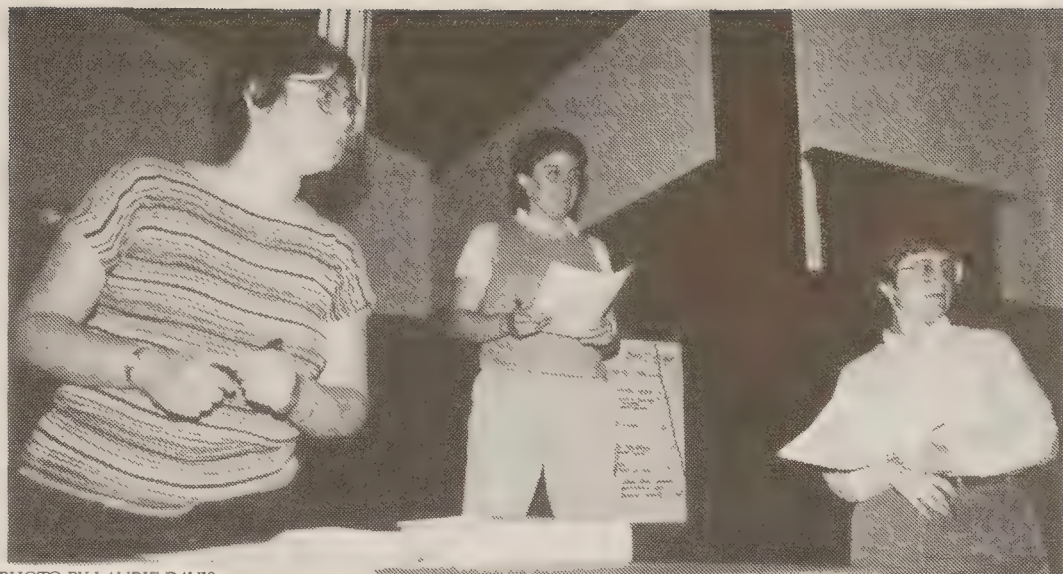


PHOTO BY LAURIE DAVIS

Women's Service: 3 of the 21 service leaders rehearsing for the August 1 Women's Service, which was attended by an overflow crowd.

July Va'ad (Continued from page 8)

and happy about. Shirley Liberman remarked that numerous volunteers made this year's setting up the CSZ booth very much easier, and sales of T-shirts were brisk.

Eric Keitel reported that registration materials for the Western Regional Conference have been sent to 75 people, and estimated that 100 people will attend the Conference at UAHC Camp Swig. Israeli folk dancing will follow Friday night services and 19 workshops will be available, including feminist Torah study.

Dana Vinicoff reported on the meeting of the World Campus of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations that she attended in Boston and displayed a proclamation of the Boston City Council welcoming the World Congress! Amsterdam will be the location of next year's meeting, to be held July 3-5, 1987.

Since the date of the Castro Street Fair has been changed to Sunday, October 5, coinciding with the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the Va'ad's consensus was that it would be inappropriate for CSZ as a Jewish organization to participate. In his UAHC Liaison report, Mike Rankin noted that the Central Conference of American Rabbis met in June and passed a resolution calling for civil rights for people with AIDS and for more funding of AIDS research.

Social Action chair Ron Lezell announced Ami Zusman will become the new chair of the committee on August 1. Ron and Ami reported on Anti-

LaRouche efforts (CSZ is requested to educate Bay Area Jews on the AIDS Initiative); on the response to the revolving bond fund generated thus far; and on an educational forum about the California Supreme Court.

This short, first meeting of the 1986-97 Va'ad concluded, as is our custom, with the singing of Oseh Shalom.

—Ben Schalit,
Recorder

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JEWISH GAYS, LESBIANS: Organizing South Bay Havurah (social support group). Nobody excluded. Contact Al (408) 298-9541 (leave name, number if no human answers).

FOR RENT: Oakland Condo. 2BR 1BA, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, dining room, parking. Wonderful light and outlook! Located above Lake Merritt, 15 minutes to San Francisco. Security building. Lease option possible. \$800/mo. Rob 451-0585.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: The *Forward* photographer is retiring. Great opportunity to step in snapping! Contact Alex Ingersoll at 431-7541 or Bob Goldware at 641-9111 for benefits.

LOOKING TO REPLACE LaZELL: Roommate needed for spacious and classy Noe Valley flat. Three bedrooms, two baths, two decks, state-of-the-art kitchen, fireplace, spectacular views. \$650. No experience required in either softball or Barbra imitations. Call Bruce Katz 550-2651.

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220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Irene Ogus
Vice President, Richard Inlander
Treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Eric Keitel
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ellen Kugler
Shirley Liberman
Mike Rankin
Susan Talley
Don Albert, Ex officio

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Bill Goldstein
Family Havurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Marion Trentman

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. — check calendar for each month.

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Secretary:

Jacqueline Letalien

The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

The Forward Tells All

Our newly renovated 2nd floor was formally inaugurated on Sunday, July 27 as 30 members of the Northern California UAHC Presidents Council held their bi-monthly meeting at Sha'ar Zahav.

Since the *Forward* has been praised and acknowledged as a standard for other congregations to emulate, we were asked to present a program on "How to Use Your Temple Bulletin More Effectively." Congregational presidents and newsletter editors came from as far away as Chico and Salinas to participate in an information-packed discussion led by Irene Ogus with support from Alex Ingersoll and Bob Goldware. Our presentation focused on our newsletter philosophy, areas in which we have strived to utilize the *Forward* to better communicate with our members and community and how CSZ has managed to stimulate and build a healthy newsletter committee.

The morning concluded with an update on UAHC AIDS projects, given by our UAHC liaison, Mike Rankin.



PHOTO BY LAURIE DAVIS

Alex Ingersoll and Bob Goldware get a critique of the *Forward* from Marc Klein (center), editor of the *Jewish Bulletin*.

FALL 1986 EDUCATION NIGHT AT SHA'AR ZAHAV

October 7 through December 16, 1986

Prayer and Liturgy of the Synagogue

Why pray? What has Judaism taught about the meaning and purpose of prayer? These questions will begin this study of prayer and the liturgy of the synagogue. The class will include a careful examination of the liturgy of the Friday night service, to make participation in worship more meaningful. This will include a comparison of Sha'ar Zahav's prayer book with other prayer books in common use today. The sessions will include a mixture of lecture, discussion and experiential activities. This class is recommended for those interested in leading services, and anyone who would enjoy a deeper appreciation of our worship. Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Instructor: Rabbi Yoel Kahn

A Jewish Look at the Five Books

This class continues our popular study in English, of "The Five Books" -- the Torah. Topics for this term include: the incident of the Golden Calf, the dedication of the Tabernacle in the wilderness from the concluding chapters of Exodus and the Book of Leviticus. We will carefully examine the Biblical text and what ancient and modern commentators have taught about it. This class is open to everyone. Enrollment in previous classes is not required. Tuesdays, 8:45 - 10:00 p.m. Instructor: Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Creating a Jewish Home Life -- An Experiential Workshop

In this ten-session course, we will explore the traditions, practices and values that go into living a Jewish life. We will study origins and past and present practices, share emotions and experiences, and perhaps create our own rituals. The course will include one Shabbat evening and one Shabbat day spent together. Some other topics we will discuss are daily prayer, kashrut, Jewish values, and life cycle ceremonies. Enrollment is limited to 15. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Instructor: Leslie Bergson

General Information: Classes will meet at the synagogue. There is a registration fee of \$5 per semester. Scholarships are available through arrangement with Rabbi Kahn. Advance registration is required by October 1. Please return the form below with payment to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114.

	<i>Members</i>	<i>Non-Members</i>
Class 1: Prayer and Liturgy of the Synagogue	___ \$10.	___ \$20.
Class 2: A Jewish Look at the Five Books	___ \$10.	___ \$20.
Class 3: Creating a Jewish Home Life	___ \$20.	___ \$30.
Registration Fee:	___ \$5.	___ \$5.
Total:	___	___

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

ROSH HASHANA/JEWISH NEW YEAR CARDS IN SUPPORT OF SANCTUARY EFFORTS

A Project of the S.F. Jewish Sanctuary Coalition
To Aid Refugees Seeking Safe Haven in the U.S.

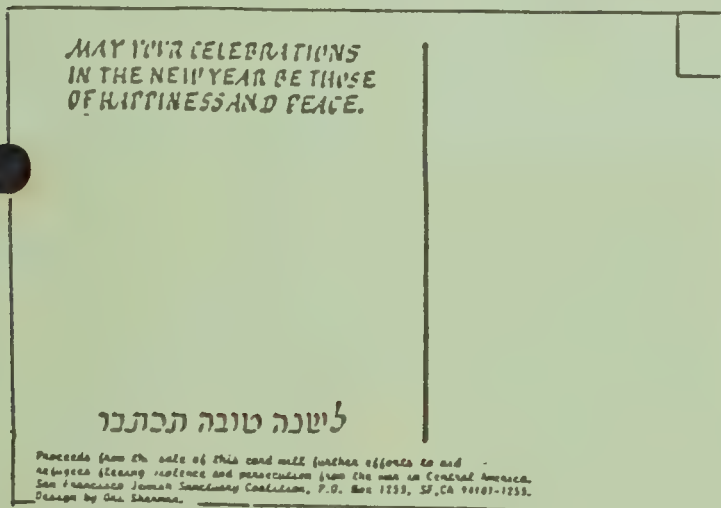


Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is selling Rosh Hashanah/Jewish New Year cards as part of a project, sponsored by the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition, to aid refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and other oppressive regimes.

These cards, pictured in reduced size on the left, are an original design by local artist Ori Sherman. The cards are in a four by six inch postal card format. Each package of 10 cards sells for \$4.00 (plus \$.50 per package postage charge if ordered by mail). Cards are available from Sha'ar Zahav by mail or from the synagogue office during regular office hours.

Proceeds from sale of cards purchased through Sha'ar Zahav will go toward meeting our goal of raising contributions for a revolving bond fund to enable currently incarcerated refugees to be released from custody to pursue political asylum.

(For more information, see article in September Forward.)



Order your cards today!

Mail check or money order, along with completed order form to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Attention: New Year Cards
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

Please send me _____ packages of the 1986/5747 edition cards at \$4.50 per package (\$4.00 per package plus \$.50 per package postage charge).

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____

Purchases are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES PARTICIPATION FORM

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav would once again like to provide an opportunity for all members to participate in High Holiday services. We will be assigning readings in English and Hebrew at the various services. Only those members who return this form to the Synagogue office by September 12, 1986 can be assured an opportunity to participate.

Return to: Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114 no later than Friday, September 12, 1986.

Name of Member _____

Telephone Number(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

I would like to participate at:

ROSH HASHANAH

- ☐ Friday evening, October 3
- ☐ Saturday morning (Shacharit), October 4
- ☐ Saturday late morning (Musaf), October 4

YOM KIPPUR

- ☐ Sunday evening (Kol Nidre), October 12
 - ☐ Monday morning (Shacharit), October 13
 - ☐ Monday late morning (Musaf), October 13
 - ☐ Monday late afternoon (Yizkor), October 13
 - ☐ Monday late afternoon (Neilah), October 13
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- ☐ Any service
 - ☐ I can read Hebrew well
 - ☐ I would like to learn a Hebrew chant

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REACH OUT AND ...

You know how nice it feels when someone remembers you in a special way, on your birthday, on a holiday or just because... Make someone feel good, put their name in print in a...

NEW YEAR'S GREETING

So what's new?
Already it's 5747
How time flies!
Happy New Year!

Spaced out?
Space in with your
own greeting
right here

Peace, happiness and
health from the
Newsletter Committee

If you wish to place a greeting in the Forward, please send your check for \$10.00 to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

Attn: Newsletter Committee

Deadline September 10

Please limit your greeting to 20 words or less.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Message _____

